

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 262

Washington, D. C.

June 16, 1928

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Plans to expand canning crop report service	1017	Weather and crops	1023
Same room assignments available for next convention	1018	Business conditions	1024
Physiological research work bears fruit	1019	Industrial employment in May	1025
Navy asks bids on apricots, peaches and pineapple	1019	Retail trade in May	1025
Truck crop markets	1019	Fruit in cold storage	1025
Report of California cling peach survey committee	1020	Storage regulations for cold pack fruits	1025
Truck crop prospects	1021	Government beef grading and stamping put on fee basis	1026
Fruit crop prospects in California ..	1023	Sardine export association formed ..	1026
Peach, pear and apple crop conditions ..	1023	Canned foods in unlacquered cans still refused entry into Argentina	1027
Southern California pimiento acreage ..	1023	Foreign trade notes	1027
		Dimensions of No. 35 cans	1028
		Publications of interest to canners ..	1028

Plans to Expand Canning Crop Report Service

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in a letter to the National Canners Association, has outlined its plans to expand to some extent the work being done by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates on canning crops. The letter from the acting chief of the Bureau states:

"Arrangements have been made to get out a mid-month report on the more important truck crops during the coming year, with particular attention to canning crops. In order to get prompt reports from as many points as possible it is planned to appoint a number of local paid reporters in important canning crop areas. Additional travel funds have been allotted to the statisticians in the more important truck crop States. In New York State a new man is to be appointed to give his whole time to the truck crop work of that State. An extra travel allowance has been made for this work.

"A condition report will be made on July 1 on the sour cherry crop of New York, Wisconsin and Michigan. As this is a crop for which no reports have been issued before, no comparable data will be available, nor will it be possible to make a quantitative estimate of the crop. To do so will require a great deal of rather detailed survey work which it will not be possible to carry out this year. However, the condition report will give some indication of the size of this crop.

"So far as California is concerned, I believe the fruit and the fruit and truck crops are quite thoroughly covered at the present time. A differentiation is made in the reports between the peaches used for canning and other varieties.

"I doubt if it will be practicable to undertake any work on the berry crops this year. An extensive survey of the principal berry producing areas will be necessary before intelligent crop reporting work can be undertaken. This work, therefore, will have to be postponed until next year. So far as the bean crop is concerned the Department is already publishing monthly condition reports and forecasts for the various States."

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics on Friday issued a forecast on green peas for canning and condition reports on snap beans, corn, peas and tomatoes, summaries of which are mailed with this issue of the Information Letter.

Same Room Assignments Available for Next Convention

Although the next annual convention will not be held until the week of January 21, 1929, many members of the Association have already requested hotel reservations, asking that they be assigned the same rooms that they had at the last convention. The Association has just been advised by the management of the Stevens Hotel that they will be glad to assign the same rooms whenever this is desired.

As in previous years, no reservations will be made direct by the hotel, which will refer requests for reservations to the respective national Associations. It will greatly facilitate the handling of reservations if members of the National Cannery Association file their requests with this office as early as practicable.

Physiological Research Work Bears Fruit

The large amount of research work relating to outbreaks of illness attributed to food in recent years is certainly bearing fruit and leading to a more intelligent and careful study of such outbreaks. The investigations undertaken or sponsored by this Association during the past fifteen years or more are undoubtedly playing an important part in bringing about this improvement.

To illustrate this, an outbreak of illness involving over one hundred persons recently occurred after a school banquet in Washington, D. C. Great popular interest was taken in the outbreak and much newspaper publicity was given it. Those who were responsible for the preparation of the food were naturally

l
o
l
o
-
a
n
e

ll
n
e
i.
f
s
et
ne
ne
rs
c-

of
ag
ch
is
t-
e-

ne
in
t-
ho
ly

National Canners Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FORECAST OF PRODUCTION OF GREEN PEAS FOR CANNING

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, on June 15, issued revised acreage statistics on green peas for canning, with indicated yield and a forecast of production:

State	Acreage		Yield per Acre		Production	
	1927	Revised 1928	1927	Indicated 1928	1927	Forecast 1928
	Acres	Acres	Pounds	Pounds	Thousands of pounds	Thousands of pounds
California	750	1,240	2,800	2,340	2,100	2,902
Colorado	1,800	3,260	1,400	2,376	2,520	7,746
Delaware	1,700	2,060	3,000	2,088	5,100	4,301
Illinois	8,830	10,240	1,400	2,184	12,362	22,364
Indiana	1,880	3,750	1,600	2,208	3,008	8,302
Maine	720	920	1,600	1,920	1,152	1,766
Maryland	8,000	8,720	2,800	2,232	22,400	19,453
Michigan	8,400	11,930	1,400	2,088	11,760	24,910
Minnesota	6,980	7,690	1,600	2,064	11,168	16,285
New Jersey	500	160	2,400	2,160	1,200	1,345

Maryland	8,000	8,720	2,800	2,233	22,400	19,463
Michigan	8,400	11,930	1,400	2,098	11,760	24,910
Minnesota	6,980	7,690	1,600	2,064	11,168	16,285
New Jersey	500	160	2,400	2,160	1,200	346
New York	25,540	31,970	1,600	2,208	40,864	70,590
Ohio	2,990	3,320	1,600	1,728	4,784	5,737
Pennsylvania	1,320	1,680	2,800	2,580	3,596	4,334
Utah	8,460	10,150	2,400	2,880	20,304	29,232
Wisconsin	80,000	101,000	2,000	2,016	160,000	203,616
Other States	5,840	8,350	2,400	1,600	14,016	13,360
Total	163,710	206,650	1,933	2,106	316,434	435,254

The total acreage and production of green peas for canning during the years 1924 - 1925 inclusive, were as follows:

	Acres	Thousands of pounds
1924	225,590	488,404
1925	226,630	412,944
1926	216,860	430,000

Nevada	--	--	100	87	--	--	--	--	--
Section Average.	92	86	82	83	85	86	84	76	
Delaware	100	90	80	79	87	75	78	76	
Maryland	88	84	86	79	93	75	74	81	
Virginia	--	--	--	--	--	--	86	76	
South Carolina . .	75	64	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Section Average.	87	81	85	79	92	75	76	79	
Kentucky	--	--	--	--	--	--	69	72	
Tennessee	85	80	--	--	--	--	84	78	
Mississippi	58	75	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Arkansas	88	85	--	--	--	--	79	78	
Section Average.	73	79	--	--	--	--	78	76	
Colorado	95	88	--	--	99	92	89	84	
Utah	97	90	--	--	96	95	96	91	
Washington	86	79	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Oregon	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
California	--	--	--	--	78	79	91	78	
Section Average.	94	87	--	--	95	93	92	80	
Other States . . .	83	80	82	83	80	78	92	82	
U. S. Average. . .	88	85	88	82	87	86	82	79	

INTENDED CABBAGE ACREAGE IN LATE STATES

The acreage intended to be planted in cabbage (including acreage for kraut) in the late states is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at 56,970 acres, compared with 61,490 acres in 1927.

CANNING TRUCK CROP CONDITIONS

Condition of snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, and tomatoes for manufacture on June 1, 1928, compared with the ten-year average for June 1, as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

State	SNAP BEANS		SWEET CORN		GREEN PEAS		TOMATOES	
	June 1, 1928	10 yr. Ave.	June 1, 1928	10 yr. Ave.	June 1, 1928	10 yr. Ave.	June 1, 1928	10 yr. Ave.
Maine	75	81	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York	98	91	91	81	92	86	95	86
New Jersey	—	—	—	—	90	84	77	82
Pennsylvania	75	78	85	82	86	84	89	81
Section Average.	93	88	90	81	92	86	83	83
Ohio	—	—	79	76	72	81	79	82
Indiana	100	74	94	82	92	81	86	74
Illinois	—	—	89	84	91	85	96	76
Michigan	95	89	—	—	87	83	72	81
Wisconsin	89	86	89	82	84	87	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	82	85	86	89	—	—
Iowa	—	—	92	83	—	—	91	78
Missouri	—	—	—	—	—	—	77	78
Nebraska	—	—	100	87	—	—	—	—
Section Average.	92	86	82	83	85	86	84	76
Delaware	100	90	80	79	87	75	75	76



much concerned and claims were made that the illness was due to an unfortunate combination of food or to metallic contamination of some food.

However, the District Health Department, which is well-equipped with chemical and bacteriological laboratory facilities, made a prompt investigation and was able to secure samples of the various foods served. The Department further interviewed a large number of the persons who attended the banquet. As a result of this investigation, together with a bacteriological examination of the suspected foods, it has been definitely proved that the outbreak was due to contamination of potato salad with bacteria of the paratyphoid group.

This investigation will bring home very forcefully to the people of the Capital City the value of scientific investigation of such outbreaks as compared with superficial investigations or conclusions based on superstitions or prejudices.

Navy Asks Bids on Apricots, Peaches and Pineapple

The Navy Department is asking for bids to be opened July 10, on canned apricots (schedule 9235); canned peaches (schedule 9218); and canned pineapple (schedule 9240). The schedules call for delivery of these articles at various ports in the following amounts:

	Apricots Pounds	Peaches Pounds	Pineapple Pounds
Boston	60,000	120,000	160,000
Brooklyn	90,000	130,000	120,000
Philadelphia	40,000	60,000	65,000
Hampton Roads	220,000	260,000	225,000
Mare Island	220,000	260,000	1,250,000
Bremerton	200,000	325,000	60,000

Copies of the schedule may be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington. Copies of the specifications issued by the Navy Department may be obtained upon application to the supply officer in any navy yard, the Navy Purchasing offices at Newport, R. I., New York City, and San Francisco, or the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

Truck Crop Markets

Shipments of 31 fruits and vegetables during the week of June 3-9 amounted to 20,650 cars, according to the U. S. Market News Service. With 760 cars of tomatoes rolling from Texas during the week ended June 9, 265 from Mississippi, and 460 from Florida, the total output increased to 1,560 cars. In spite of a slight increase of acreage in the five second-early states, production in this group probably will be reduced to 3,430,000

bushels, or 1,000,000 less than last season. Mississippi expects only 1,800,000, as against a heavy crop of 2,765,000 bushels in 1927. The Texas crop also will be lighter than last year.

First cars of California grapes moved during the week; condition of the crop in that state indicates exceptionally heavy production this season. The 1928 peach crop may be 40 per cent heavier than that of last year, while pears may show a 28 per cent increase. Condition of the apple crop is far more favorable than last June. Peach prospects are poorest in the intermediate groups of states from Delaware through the Ohio Valley to Missouri. The southeastern states seem likely to have an exceptionally heavy crop, and the same is true in California. In the northern peach areas, it is too early for a reliable forecast, but present prospects in these states point to a crop intermediate between the light production of last season and the very large crop of 1926.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

	June 3-9 1928	May 27 to June 2 1928	June 5-11 1927	Total this season to June 9	Total last season to June 11	Total last season
Apples.....	295	345	276	92,505	133,473	133,849
Asparagus.....	56	62	71	2,679	2,009	2,132
Cabbage.....	821	926	651	15,137	13,759	38,868
Cantaloupes.....	2,250	1,935	2,439	7,132	4,900	30,236
Carrots (1928 season).....	306	312	(a)	4,595	(a)	6,595
Cauliflower.....	12	35	4	9,022	6,891	6,802
Cherries.....	121	248	152	984	440	1,460
Peas.....	140	318	51	2,850	2,441	4,148
Mixed deciduous fruit ..	175	130	96	237	100	5,404
Mixed vegetables.....	708	799	635	18,489	18,009	35,042
Peaches.....	62	11	315	81	704	41,474
Peppers.....	97	95	87	1,901	1,329	2,854
Plums and prunes.....	251	177	103	497	129	5,983
Spinach.....	2	10	4	9,955	9,129	9,655
Strawberries.....	3,230	3,464	917	17,095	17,077	17,893
String beans.....	646	401	196	4,643	4,415	6,481
Tomatoes.....	1,558	1,118	2,108	10,728	15,988	32,615

(a) Unavailable

Report of California Cling Peach Survey Committee

Total gross production of cling peaches in 1928 as determined by the survey organized and conducted by Governor C. C. Young's survey committee will be 398,377 tons, unless weather or other conditions change the situation before the harvest. Of this quantity, 100,325 tons are Tuscan, 96,856 tons Early Midsummers, 31,162 tons Late Midsummers, 153,243 tons Phillips, 10,846 tons Old Midsummers, 5,429 tons Levis and 516 tons other varieties. The survey was made jointly by growers and canners under the supervision of the Governor's survey committee.

In analyzing these totals, it should be borne in mind that the usual method was followed. Zone survey committees were instructed to disregard 1927, when an effort was made to grade

out all of the No. 2 fruit. The purpose of using the basis of estimating used prior to 1927 was to develop comparable totals and also to enable the expert zone committeemen to follow methods with which they were most familiar.

The total quantity of fruit commercially canned will be reduced below the above totals, at least to the extent that fruit is consumed fresh or home canned, and also to the extent that the No. 2 and cull fruit is graded out. Also, based on the experience of the last two or three years, it is likely that the major portion of the Old Midsummers and Levis will not be canned.

E. E. Kaufman, State and Federal Crop Estimator for California, whose previous cling peach estimates have registered very close to the actual, and who estimates on a gross basis, last year on June 1 placed the crop at 300,000 tons. As the season progressed, he increased his estimate to a final of 325,000 tons. In 1926 his final estimate was 327,000 tons. These are both comparable with the 1928 figure of 398,377 tons.

Approximately one hundred expert fruit men, statisticians and stenographers were employed in the work. More than 6,000 cling peach orchards were examined, all in a period of less than three weeks. The work in the north was divided into thirty-six zones and south of the Tehachapi into fifteen zones. In the north two expert fruit men were assigned to each zone, one being a canner and the other a grower. The men were selected for their thorough knowledge of fruit and also for their knowledge of the zone in which they operated. While a system of appeal was worked out to take care of possible disagreements between canner and grower committeemen, the groups worked together so well that not a single appeal was made and every report covering every orchard was signed by both the grower and the canner estimators. On the average, the estimates made by the individual growers covering their own orchards tallied closely with the estimates of the committees, although in many cases they were below and in many others above the final committee estimates.

Truck Crop Prospects

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics issued, under date of June 9, reports on a number of truck crops from which the following items have been taken:

Preliminary estimates of the acreage of specified crops in various commercial areas compared with the acreage in 1927 follow:

	1927 Revised	1928 Preliminary
Cantaloupes:		
Intermediate	42,200	45,750
Early	41,070	35,380
Total	83,270	81,010
Cucumbers:		
Intermediate	5,350	5,570
Early and second early	31,950	33,650
Total	37,330	39,650
Peppers, green:		
Early and intermediate	12,420	13,940
Beets:		
Early (Miss., N. C., Tex.)	3,220	3,900
Intermediate (N. J.)	1,000	1,000
Total	4,220	4,900

Forecasts of the production of specified truck crops in various commercial areas compared with production in 1927 are given in the following:

	1927	Forecast 1928
Beans, snap:	Hampers	Hampers
Intermediate	2,210,000	2,567,000
Early	1,788,000	1,608,000
Second early	1,484,000	1,587,000
Total	5,482,000	5,762,000
Carrots:	Tons	Tons
Intermediate	336,000	332,000
Early	1,458,000	1,922,000
Second early	4,199,000	3,194,000
Total	5,993,000	5,458,000
Strawberries:	Quarts	Quarts
Late	99,499,000	77,485,000
Early	34,660,000	55,232,000
Second early	95,083,000	105,519,000
Intermediate	112,350,000	137,816,000
Total	341,592,000	376,052,000
Tomatoes:	Bushels	Bushels
Second early	4,477,000	3,431,000
Early	4,110,000	3,902,000
Total	8,587,000	7,333,000

Following is the condition of specified truck crops in commercial areas on May 25 as reported by state statisticians and growers:

	May 25, 1928 Per cent	April 25, 1928 Per cent	June 1, 1927 Per cent
Asparagus	83	87	92
Beans, snap	61	66	83
Carrots	88	81	80
Corn, sweet	81	75	80
Cucumbers	62	60	65
Peas, green	81	78	84
Peppers, green	77	73	83
Tomatoes	76	77	86

Fruit Crop Prospects in California

The condition of cherries in California on June 1 as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics was 62 per cent, compared with 47 per cent on the same date last year; plums, 83 per cent, as compared with 67; prunes, 71 per cent as compared with 74 per cent; and apricots, 55 per cent as compared with 61 per cent.

Peach, Pear and Apple Crop Conditions

According to the June 8 crop of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics which was received too late for publication in last week's Information Letter, but which was summarized in a mimeographed statement mailed with the Letter, the production of peaches in 1928 was estimated at 64,188,000 bushels, compared with about 45,500,000 bushels last year. The production of pears was estimated at 23,130,000 bushels compared with 18,072,000 last year. It is too early to forecast the apple crop, but the report stated that prospects seemed to be very good in nearly all sections except portions of Missouri, Arkansas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, where late frost caused considerable damage. The condition on June 1 was 72.2 per cent, as compared with 57.2 per cent on June 1 last year.

Southern California Pimiento Acreage

There are 4,000 acres of pimientos for canning intended to be planted in Southern California this year, as compared with an acreage of 3,345 in 1927, from which a production of 10,475 tons were harvested, according to a report from the California state statistician issued under date of June 9 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Weather and Crops

The outstanding features of weather conditions during the week ended June 12 as reported by the Weather Bureau, were the generous to heavy rains in the central-northern states, especially over much of the northern Great Plains where severe drought had prevailed, and the continuation of unseasonably low temperatures over the eastern portions of the central valleys, the Lake region, and northeast. The rains in the northwest were especially beneficial, as vegetation was suffering in many places. The continued cool, cloudy, and wet weather retarded growth of warm-weather crops in the east, and at the same time cultivation was hindered over large areas, with complaints of resulting grassy condition of fields planted to row

crops. Along the south Atlantic coast, in Gulf districts, and much of the southwest more seasonable temperatures prevailed and crops made satisfactory advancement. In general, warm, dry, and sunshiny weather is needed over the eastern two-thirds of the country.

The soil is now unusually well supplied with moisture quite generally east of the Rocky Mountains, although a few local areas are still in need of rain. Some localities reported damage from erosion and flooded lowlands. In the central Rocky Mountain area unusually favorable conditions continued, but west of the mountains, while temperatures were generally favorable, moisture is mostly deficient. Coolness and light rains in the Pacific Northwest were helpful to checking evaporation, but dry-land farms still need rain, especially for spring-sown grains.

Business Conditions

Measured by check payments, the dollar volume of trade during the week ended June 9 was greater than in either the preceding week or the corresponding period of last year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. Operating activity in steel plants, although showing no change from the preceding week, was higher than a year ago. The volume of new building contracts awarded during the week averaged higher than in either the preceding week or the corresponding period of last year. Wholesale prices were generally lower than in the previous week and higher than a year ago.

Loans and discounts of Federal Reserve member banks averaged lower than in the preceding week but were greater than a year ago. Loans to brokers and dealers by Federal Reserve member banks in New York City again expanded. Stock prices averaged lower than in the previous week but were higher than a year ago. Interest rates on time money, although showing no change from the previous week, were higher than in the same week of last year, while bond prices, reflecting higher interest rates, averaged lower than in the preceding week, but were still slightly above the level of a year ago. Interest rates on call money showed no change from the preceding week but were higher than a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise and L.C.L.	Other
Week ended June 2	934,214	371,128	230,191	332,895
Preceding week	1,020,916	396,059	259,649	365,208
Corresponding week, 1927	911,510	346,258	226,979	338,273
Corresponding week, 1926	944,864	348,512	234,455	361,897

Industrial Employment in May

Employment and pay-roll totals in manufacturing industries were little changed in May as compared with April, employment being 0.2 per cent lower and pay-roll totals 0.2 per cent higher, as reported by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The downward trend of employment, which is usual in May, was considerably greater in 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927 than it was in May, 1928.

Employment and pay-roll totals in May, 1928, were 4.7 per cent and 5.8 per cent lower, in the two items respectively, than in May, 1927.

The data for May, 1928, were based on reports made by 11,035 establishments in 54 of the principal manufacturing industries of the United States. These establishments in May had 3,055,200 employees, whose combined earnings in one week were \$82,814,127.

Retail Trade in May

Retail trade in May was larger than in the corresponding month of last year, according to preliminary reports to the Federal Reserve system by department stores, mail-order houses and chain stores. Sales of 525 department stores were 4 per cent larger and sales of five-and-ten cent chain stores and of mail-order houses were larger, respectively, by 13 per cent and 19 per cent. The increase over last year reflects in part the fact that May of this year contained one more business day; average daily sales of department stores were about the same as May of 1927, while those of mail-order houses and chain stores were larger.

Fruit in Cold Storage

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports the following cold storage holdings of fruit as of June 1:

	June 1, 1928	June 1, 1927	5-Yr. average
Applesbarrels	121,000	229,000	267,000
Applesboxes	1,211,000	717,000	765,000
Applesbushels	222,000	199,000
Pearsbarrels	2,000	1,000
Pearsboxes	46,000	42,000
Frozen and preserved fruits..pounds	27,996,000	41,075,000

Storage Regulations for Cold Pack Fruits

Inclusion under the terms of the United States Warehouse Act of the storage of cold pack fruit is provided in regulations recently signed and promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Cold pack fruit is defined in the regulations as the product obtained by packing properly matured and fresh fruit and berries according to specified conditions, into suitable containers, and by maintaining such packed commodities at a temperature sufficiently low to insure its preservation.

Under the regulations the packing plant must be inspected and approved by Department examiners and the product must be inspected and approved at the packing plants by licensed examiners who must issue a special form of certificate to the storing warehouseman. No product is permitted to be stored if it fails to reach the sharp room of the warehouse within 12 hours after inspection at the packing plant. Temperature of the sharp room must be at least zero and all products to be stored must remain in the sharp room at least 48 hours before being transferred to regular cold storage compartments, which must have temperatures not in excess of 20 degrees F. at all times.

Government Beef Grading and Stamping Put on Fee Basis

The Government beef grading and stamping service will be placed on a fee basis beginning July 1, and will be available to slaughterers, packers, wholesalers, jobbers, hotels, restaurants, and retailers in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D. C., Chicago, Kansas City, and Omaha, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture has announced.

Sardine Export Association Formed

The California Sardine Export Association has filed papers under the Export Trade Act (Webb-Pomerene law) with the Federal Trade Commission, for exporting sardines and their by-products. The company will maintain offices at 604 Postal Telegraph Building, San Francisco, and Terminal Island, Los Angeles.

Officers of the association are: Frank Van Camp, president; K. Hovden, Sam Hornstein and R. E. Cotter, vice-presidents; A. M. Lester, treasurer; and B. D. Marx Greene, secretary-manager. Members are: F. E. Booth Company, California Packing Corporation, Carmel Canning Company, San Xavier Fish Packing Company, San Francisco; E. B. Gross Canning Company, K. Hovden Company, Monterey Canning Company, San Carlos Canning Company, Sea Pride Canning Company, Monterey; Coast Fishing Company, Stafford Packing Company, Toyo Fisheries Company, Inc., Wilmington; Italian Food Products Company, Long Beach; Franco-Italian Packing

Company, French Sardine Company, Inc., Kittle-Joerissen Canning Company, L. A. Sea Food Packing Company, Southern California Fish Corporation, Van Camp Sea Food Co., Inc., Terminal Island.

Canned Foods in Unlacquered Tins Still Refused Entry Into Argentina

According to a cable of June 12 from the American commercial attache at Buenos Aires to the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the regulations prohibiting the entry into Argentina of canned acid foods not packed in internally lacquered tins is still being enforced by the National Chemical Office, and it will be necessary therefore to continue to observe this requirement in shipping canned foods to that country. The acidity of canned salmon, which is now determined by litmus paper, a method adopted by the chemical office last January, and certain canned fruits has been found to be such as to permit the entry of those products in unlacquered tins, but sardines in tomato sauce in unlacquered tins are still refused entry.

The commercial attache adds that rumors are frequently heard of the entry of goods which do not comply with the present regulations in some instances.

Foreign Trade Notes

Fruit competition in Ecuador.—American fruit canners are likely to have serious competition in the Ecuadorian market from Chilean canned fruit products, according to a report to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce by the American trade commissioner at Guayaquil, who has recently had a conference with a large importer of American canned fruits at that port. The advantage of the Chilean packers is in price and transportation facilities.

French tariff concessions to Italy.—By a commercial agreement between France and Italy, effective April 2, 1928, France has granted reductions in the minimum rates of duty on Italian products covered under about 30 items by the French tariff, including certain sausages, condensed milk, cheese, lemons, peaches and canned tomatoes.

Labeling condensed milk for Mexico.—The American commercial attache at Mexico City, in a recent report, calls attention to the Mexican regulations requiring that dairy products imported into that country must bear legends indicating whether or not the product is manufactured from pasteurized milk. It

does not follow that the products not so manufactured will be prohibited entry, but merely that the quality of imported dairy products must be unequivocally indicated on their labels.

German labeling regulations.—As a result of conferences of the American commercial attache at Berlin with the German Ministry of Agriculture on a question of tolerances under the new German foodstuffs labeling decree, the official in charge of enforcement of the regulations has given the opinion that until the question is definitely settled it might be advisable for the canned foods trade to insert on the label below the statement showing the contents of the container the following line:

"Mindestensgramm." (At leastgrams).

Dimensions of No. 55 Cans

With reference to the item in Information Letter No. 261, in which was stated that No. 55 size cans were being used by the Porto Rican grapefruit canners, we have been informed that this can has a diameter of 2 11/16 inches and is 3 1/4 inches high, instead of 2 1/2 and 3 inches as stated in the published item.

Publications of Interest to Canners

Acetic acid as soil disinfectant.—The paper on acetic acid as a soil disinfectant which appeared in the Journal of Agricultural Research for February 1, has been issued in pamphlet form by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The application to soil of 1 to 1.2 per cent acetic acid (equivalent to 7.44 to 8.93 pounds of 56 per cent acetic acid in 50 gallons of water) at the rate of about one-half gallon per square foot was found to protect tobacco against black root rot, brown root rot, and bed rot or damping off; and to protect cucumber, tomato, lettuce, and white spruce against injury by damping off during and after seed germination. For the treatment of a unit area of soil, the cost of acetic acid is about 49 per cent of the cost of formaldehyde.

Apple maggot.—In Technical Bulletin 66-T, just published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is given information respecting the apple maggot, a pest in the orchards of the north-eastern part of the United States. Spraying, it is stated, is the only effective control, and the experiments reported that two applications of commercial arsenate of lead, applied as for the codling moth, 1 to 1 1/2 pounds in 50 gallons of water, gave satisfactory control. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture.